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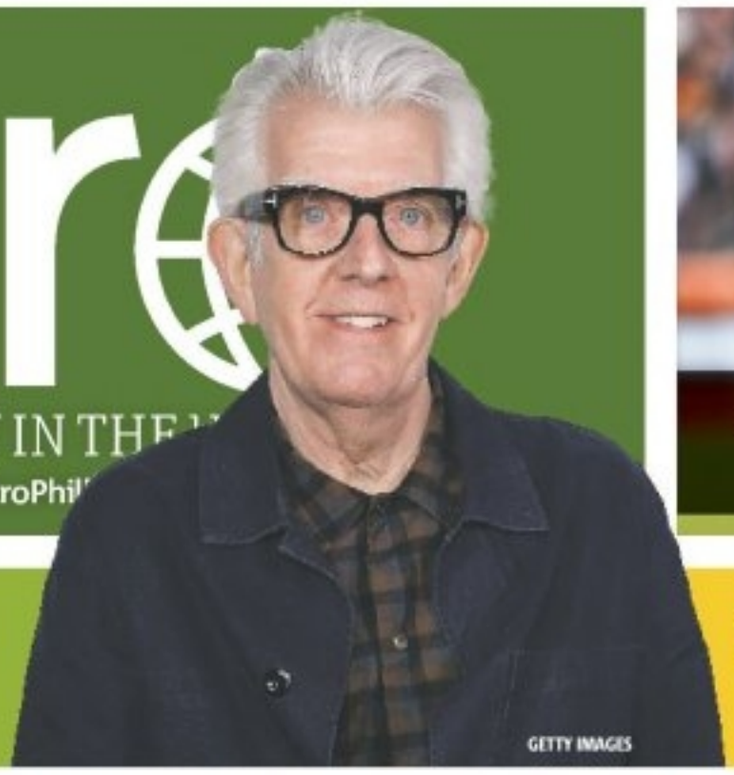
GETTY IMAGES

## THE LOWE-DOWN

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8 THINGS TO KNOW

# Lawmakers, rapper Meek Mill urge state probation law changes

A bill designed to put fewer people on parole, and for shorter periods of time, to be introduced.

Rapper Meek Mill has become one of the faces of probation reform. GETTY IMAGES

State lawmakers, criminal-justice reform advocates and rapper Meek Mill joined forces Tuesday to push for an overhaul of Pennsylvania's probation system.

House Democratic Whip Jordan Harris said at an event in downtown Philadelphia that he will soon introduce a bill designed to put fewer people on parole, and for shorter periods of time.

Mill became a symbol for those who want to change the probation system after receiving a 2- to 4-year prison term for probation violations in a decade-old gun and drug possession case.

Mill, who spent months in prison before a court ordered his release, recounted his experience with the system and said improvements to the law would prevent others from repeating what he went through.

Harris, who represents a Philadelphia district, wants to end the practice of extending probation when fines and fees aren't paid, give defendants credit for good behavior and cut time off supervision for completing educational or vocational classes.

He also wants to prevent putting probationers back behind bars if they test positive for the use of marijuana, associate with people who have a criminal history or travel outside their jurisdiction.

Harris argues courts should not be issuing consecutive sentences of probation or extending probation or parole over nonpayment of fines and costs alone.

"We need to incentivize people who are doing the right thing," Harris said after the event. "And when we know they're doing the right thing, we need to shorten their time."

The proposed changes would affect county and state probation and parole.

Rep. Sheryl Delozier, a Republican from the Harrisburg suburbs who was part of the announcement in Philadelphia Tuesday, said there ought to be a balance between supporting police and giving people who have served their time the ability to return as productive members of society.

"But having too many people on probation would prevent our county probation agents from focusing on those who need supervision the most," Delozier said. "For those who do violate their probation, going back to jail should not be the automatic response."

Harris said he was encouraged by conversations with Republicans and law enforcement about proposed changes. He expects to have legislation drafted in the coming weeks.

"The fact that we're all at the table discussing this issue is a sign that everybody is committed to getting this done," Harris said.

Corrections Secretary John Wetzel said reforms of probation and parole are high on the priority list of Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf, "and we welcome any legislative assistance to help us continue to improve outcomes for those in supervision and public safety ultimately."

A similar proposal to reform probation has been introduced as a bill in the state Senate.

State lawmakers last year passed legislation that automatically seals lower-level, nonviolent crimes from public review after 10 years. The "clean slate" legislation also seals records of arrests that did not result in convictions. The convictions are not expunged, and records of them are still available to police, courts and prosecutors.

Access to all summary convictions that are 10 years old are restricted, as long as the defendant has fulfilled court-ordered obligations.

Pennsylvania has also recently stopped suspending driver's licenses for those convicted of drug offenses unrelated to driving, and expanded the use of DNA evidence for those already convicted. ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Chicken restaurant dispute ends with two shot

**2** Authorities say a dispute at a Philadelphia chicken restaurant ended with two men being shot, including a bystander who wasn't involved in the argument. The shooting occurred around 12:30 a.m. Tuesday. The gunman fled the scene but was caught a short time later following a traffic stop. Authorities say a man involved in the argument pulled out a gun and fired 11 shots. The man he was arguing with was hit by two shots, while another wounded the bystander. Both victims were taken to a hospital, where they were each listed in stable condition. Their names and further details on their injuries had not been released. Authorities had not said why the men were arguing or disclosed what charges will be filed against the shooter.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Cardi B, Travis Scott to headline Made in America

**3** Cardi B and Travis Scott are heading to the City of Brotherly Love to headline Jay-Z's annual Made in America festival. Live Nation and Roc Nation announced Tuesday that the festival will return to Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin Parkway on Aug. 31-Sept. 1 for Labor Day weekend. Other performers include Juice WRLD, James Blake, Kodak Black, Kaskade, Tierra Whack, Blueface, Anderson .Paak and The Free Nationals, Jorja Smith, Jacob Banks, KAYTRANADA, Grace Carter and Pink Sweat$. Tickets for the general public go on sale Friday. Subscribers of Jay-Z's streaming service, Tidal, will have access to purchase tickets through a presale on Tuesday. Earnings from the festival will benefit the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, and a portion of proceeds will support The REFORM Alliance. ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Philadelphia traffic. GETTY IMAGES

# Congestion pricing may come to Philadelphia streets

City officials are eyeing New York City's new initiative closely.


MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us


After New York City approved congestion pricing last week, Philadelphia officials are looking into whether such a policy could be applied to Philly's traffic-choked streets.

The city is considering congestion pricing for the first time, watching the process unfold in New York "to see how this can help improve equity, safety, sustainability and mobility," said Kelly Cofrancisco, a representative for Mayor Jim Kenney, in Tuesday's New York Times.

Beginning in 2021, New York City will charge drivers to enter Manhattan's most congested neighborhoods. The tolls are intended to reduce gridlock and raise billions of dollars for public-transit improvements.

Population growth, ride-sharing services like Uber and a boom in e-commerce deliveries have put more vehicles on the streets, causing Philly's arteries to become increasingly clogged.

"When you look at our road system, it's old. There are some new components — [Interstate] 476 is only 28 years old — but it's tough to add capacity," transportation expert Dick Voith told KYW News Radio, warning that congestion could have financial consequences. "You have all these people waiting, and their time really is money. We're competing with other regions. And that is an economic consideration when people locate."

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Last year, residents wasted an average of 112 hours stuck in traffic, a cost of $1,568 per driver and $3.3 billion citywide.

According to a February study by transportation analytics firm INRIX, Philadelphia tied with San Francisco for the second-slowest downtown business district speeds, at 10 mph. Only New York City was slower, coming in at 9 mph. Overall, Philly ranked ninth among U.S. urban areas in congestion: Last year, residents wasted an average of 112 hours stuck in traffic, a cost of $1,568 per driver and $3.3 billion citywide.

An earlier analysis by INRIX showed that average midday vehicle speeds in Philly's downtown core slowed 8.2 percent between 2015 and 2018 — the second-worst slowdown among the country's 10 most populated cities.

Next month, Philadelphia voters will determine whether the city will create a special police force dedicated to traffic. Civilian Public Safety Enforcement Officers would assist the regular police force, monitoring streets for Vision Zero infractions, traffic problems and quality-of-life violations. They would not carry firearms or have the authority to make arrests. A similar class of officers already exists in cities such as New York and Washington, D.C.

Philly's police union opposes the measure. They claim it violates state law specifying that traffic enforcement must be conducted by state and local police.

But if voters approve the "public safety officer" bill on May 21, the city will have a year to get the program off the ground.

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Val Finnell, left, gives a thumbs-down as others applaud after the Pittsburgh City Council vote. AP PHOTO

# Following last year's synagogue massacre, Pittsburgh approves gun restrictions

The legislation places limits on military-style assault weapons; lawsuits expected.

The Pittsburgh City Council gave final approval Tuesday to gun restrictions proposed after last year's synagogue massacre, inviting a legal challenge by gun-rights activists who have long tangled with the city over firearms.

After taking an initial vote last week, the all-Democratic council voted 6-3 to send the legislation to the desk of Democratic Mayor Bill Peduto, who is expected to sign the bills into law.

A handful of pro-gun rights activists jeered and booed the vote, while two dozen supporters gave council a standing ovation.

"We're happy to take a stand," Councilman Corey O'Connor, who spearheaded the effort, said afterward. "It's going to be a difficult battle, but we are willing to fight it. People are starting to change their minds and be more open to some sort of gun control."

The legislation places restrictions on military-style assault weapons like the AR-15 rifle that authorities say was used in the Oct. 27 rampage at Tree of Life Synagogue that killed 11 and wounded seven. It also bans most uses of armor-piercing ammunition and high-capacity magazines, and allows the temporary seizure of guns from people who are determined to be a danger to themselves or others.

Pennsylvania state law forbids municipalities from regulating guns, and pro-gun advocates say they'll sue to block the laws from taking effect — and file private criminal complaints against council and Peduto over allegations of abuse of office and official repression.

Mary Konieczny, a nurse who addressed the council, called the legislation "a distraction and an overreach of authority" and accused council members Tuesday of trying "to fearmonger people that by taking guns away from legal gun owners, people will be safe."

Dennis Jordan, a lifelong Pittsburgh resident and gun collector wearing a black T-shirt supporting the Second Amendment, also spoke out against the bills.

"My guns are not hurting anybody. I have no intent of hurting anybody," he told the council. "I am not going to be allowed to own my guns because of this ordinance. I am ready to move out of this place. You just want to control people. You want to take away my right to protect people."

The three-bill package — proposed not long after the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history — was weakened ahead of the vote in an effort to make it more likely to survive a court challenge.

State law has long prohibited municipalities from regulating the ownership or possession of guns or ammunition. While one of the Pittsburgh bills originally included an outright ban on assault weapons, the revised measure bars the "use" of assault weapons in public places.

A full ban on possession would take effect only if state lawmakers or the state Supreme Court give municipalities the right to regulate guns, which is seen as unlikely in a state where legislative majorities are fiercely protective of gun rights.

Jenna Paulat, wearing a Moms Demand Action T-shirt, said she supported "sensible gun laws." She praised council members for their "bold actions."

"They can't sit around and wait for the state and federal legislators to take action," she said. ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Health officials alarmed by paralyzing illness in kids

Rachel Scott, right, helps suction the mouth of her son, Braden. AP PHOTO

One morning last fall, 4-year-old Joey Wilcox woke up with the left side of his face drooping.

It was the first sign of an unfolding nightmare.

Three days later, Joey was in a hospital intensive care unit, unable to move his arms or legs or sit up. Spinal taps and other tests failed to find a cause. Doctors worried he was about to lose the ability to breathe.

"It's devastating," said his father, Jeremy Wilcox, of Herndon, Virginia. "Your healthy child can catch a cold — and then become paralyzed."

Joey, who survived but still suffers some of the effects, was one of 228 confirmed victims in the U.S. last year of acute flaccid myelitis, or AFM, a rare, mysterious and sometimes deadly paralyzing illness that seems to ebb and flow on an every-other-year cycle and is beginning to alarm public health officials because it is striking more and more children.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said it may bear similarities to polio, which smoldered among humans for centuries before it exploded into fearsome epidemics in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Fauci, who published a report about the disease Tuesday in the journal mBio, said it is unlikely AFM will become as bad as polio, which struck tens of thousands of U.S. children annually before a vaccine became available in the 1950s.

But he warned: "Don't assume that it's going to stay at a couple of hundred cases every other year."

While other countries have reported cases, including Canada, France, Britain and Norway, the size and pattern of the U.S. outbreaks have been more pronounced. More than 550 Americans have been struck this decade. The oldest was 32. More than 90 percent were children, most around 4, 5 or 6 years old.

Most had a cold-like illness and fever, seemed to get over it, then descended into paralysis. In some cases it started in small ways — for example, a thumb that suddenly wouldn't move. Some went on to lose the ability to eat or draw breath.

Many families say their children have regained at least some movement in affected limbs, but stories of complete recovery are unusual. Health officials cannot say how many recovered completely, partly or not at all, or how many have died, though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says deaths are rare.

Scientists suspect the illness is being caused chiefly by a certain virus that was identified more than 55 years ago and may have mutated to become more dangerous. But they have yet to prove that.

A growing number of experts agree that physical therapy makes a difference.

"These kids can continue to recover very slowly, year over year. ... It's driven by how much therapy they do," said Dr. Benjamin Greenberg of UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, one of the nation's foremost experts on the condition.

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## metro.us/horoscopes

**Aries** A quiet approach will help you avoid interference. Adjust your day to accommodate your needs, and don't stop until you reach your goal.

**Taurus** Take care of private matters. Don't share personal information or make a promise you won't be able to keep. A positive financial, medical or legal change is heading your way.

**Gemini** Scrutinize an offer before you get involved. Someone will try your patience if you aren't specific about the way you want things done. A false impression will lead you astray.

**Cancer** Share creative ideas with people who appreciate you and your talent. A partnership will help you reach your goal faster if you divvy up what needs to be done.

**Leo** Be open to suggestions, but when it comes to making a decision, do what feels right and works best for you. Generosity doesn't mean letting someone take advantage of you.

**Virgo** Don't settle for less when you have what it takes to get what you want. Make it clear what you expect others to contribute to your project.

**Libra** Listen to complaints, but don't give in if someone is asking for too much. Partnerships need to be dealt with honestly if you want to avoid being taken for granted or manipulated.

**Scorpio** Mingle, network and share what you have to offer. The information you receive will help you filter your ideas, eliminating what's unnecessary and focusing on what's important.

**Sagittarius** Don't go too far off the beaten track. Know what and who you are up against and hold your cards close to your chest. Don't divulge secrets or personal information.

**Capricorn** Memories will help you put a past relationship in perspective and encourage you to make positive domestic and lifestyle changes.

**Aquarius** Call on someone who has supported your efforts in the past and discuss your plans. Getting a second opinion will help you avoid making a mistake that could prove costly.

**Pisces** Don't get angry when you can get moving. Look at what's possible and start the ball rolling. Don't let someone's disgruntled attitude get you down or hold you back. EUGENIA LAST

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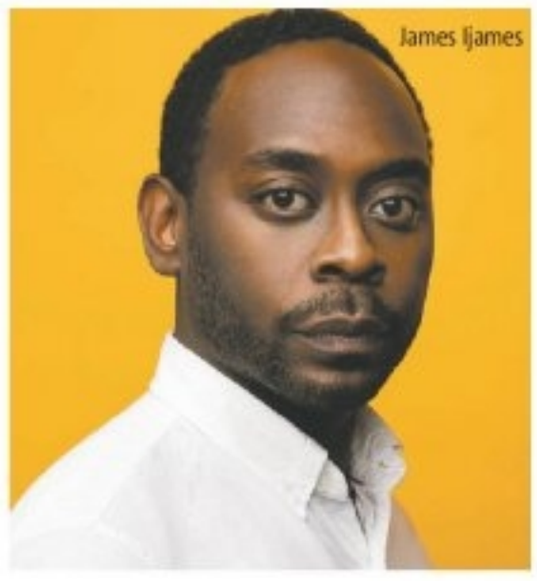

James Ijames

# Making history cool again

The MOAR is hosting an interest evening surrounding "Hamilton" and history

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

The smash musical "Hamilton" and the Museum of the American Revolution have truly made history cool again, and they could not have done it without the help of Alexander Hamilton.

As soon as "Hamilton" premiered, it took off and its popularity skyrocketed even more as the years went on, while the MOAR also delved into the world of the notable American Statesman with their impressive display "Hamilton Was Here." Although it closed last month, the Museum is still celebrating the Founding Father with an exciting discussion featuring some notable historians discussing the balancing of artistic license with historical accuracy, and how theater professionals and historians can work together to inspire new generations of audiences through storytelling.

The evening's panel is full of notable historians all there to educate visitors, spark interesting conversations and give insight on one of the most important periods of time in American history. There will be a Q & A with the audience, along with a book signing for "Historians on Hamilton".

The panel will include Renee C. Romano, Claire Bond Potter, James Ijames and Brian Eugenio Herrera.

Romano and Potter are co-editors of the book "Historians on Hamilton: How a Blockbuster Musical is Restaging America's Past," the book consists of 15 essays that explore the Hamilton phenomenon while also looking into how important that specific time period was for our country's history. Romano is a specialist in 20th-century American cultural and political history and has authored many other notable publications, while Potter also penned many other books and articles while being well-versed in the world of historical politics.

Ijames is an award-winning Philadelphia based performer, playwright and assistant professor of theater at Villanova University. His latest work of art "Gem of the Ocean" was on stage at the Arden Theater until late last month and it was a huge success. Herrera also has an impressive career in academia exploring the history of gender, sexuality and race within and through U.S. popular performance. This panel is not just for history buffs or "Hamilton" fanatics- it's for anyone who is curious, hungry for knowledge or simply someone who is fascinated with our country's impressive history. The evening will be nothing short of exciting and the MOAR is thrilled to continue their "Year of Hamilton" even with the official exhibit closed. So excited, in fact, that there will be special programs, tours, and artifacts related to Alexander Hamilton on display until September.

*April 3, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Museum of the American Revolution, 101 S. 3rd St., $10-$20, amrevmuseum.org*

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# Heading back to work with Nick Lowe

We spoke with the legendary songwriter ahead of his upcoming tour.

PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

To know anything about legendary British songwriter Nick Lowe is to know that he has always approached music as though it was just another job that needs to get done. He just happens to do that job incredibly well.

As a producer he helped to create some of the most defining rock records of the '70s punk and New Wave era, and wrote such classic songs as "What's So Funny 'Bout Peace Love and Understanding," "Cruel to Be Kind," "So It Goes" and "I Love the Sound of Breaking Glass."

Recently, Lowe has been touring the globe with the lucha libre-masked surf-rock band Los Straitjackets as his backing band, and treating fans old and new to one of the most eclectic and celebrated catalogs in all of rock 'n' roll. We caught up with Lowe to talk about this fruitful collaboration and the power of writing simple songs.

**How did your partnership with Los Straightjackets come about?**

Well, I've known them for quite a long time from bumping into them on the circuit, so to speak, but we also share a manager.

And about — it's longer ago than it seems actually — about six years ago, I released a Christmas record, which enjoyed a surprising amount of success in the United States. Shortly after it was released, two of my main musical collaborators that I'd been with for years and years and also had become quite close friends with, died. One after the other. I couldn't promote the record. The next Christmas came around, I just couldn't do it. I let the wind out of my sail, and I just couldn't make it out there. Anyway, with the passing of time, it was suggested by my manager and by Straightjackets' manager that, why don't I do a few Christmas shows with the Straightjackets, which we did, and they were pretty good.

We did it the next year, somewhere along the West Coast, and the next year somewhere else, and then we came to Europe, and we did a bunch of shows here all over countries in Europe, and it was really good fun.

**Your career is so defined by your workmanlike approach to music. Do you enjoy giving yourself assignments like that?**

Oh, you mean with the Christmas record, for instance? Oh yeah. When it was suggested to me, I never would have thought of doing it, because in the U.K., to put out a Christmas album, it was seen as kind of vulgar. I think it got a good laugh — the great, great Christmas songs are all American, from what I can see. You guys seem to take it all with a pinch of salt; over here, people just do the same 10 tunes. It's almost like they don't know that there are way

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more! So my initial reaction when it was first put to me was, "Oh dear, who do you think I am? Don't you know that I'm an internationally celebrated songwriter? I'm not dirtying my hands on something as…" Well, that thought lasted for about three-and-a-half seconds, and was immediately replaced by, "Wait a minute, this could be a really good laugh!"

**I've read a quote of yours where you said you like to write a song as though it is a cover. Like some stranger is coming up with those emotions and narratives. Is the protagonist unrecognizable when you look back at some of your older songs?**

With the best stuff, yes. It's like someone else has done it. That's the best, when I can listen back and hear myself going to work in some of the old records. Which, frankly, isn't very often, but occasionally they'll play one of my records on the radio and sometimes I'll be quite pleased.

But when it comes to writing songs, especially now that I'm older, and it's still a mysterious process — it's something you can't turn on, or indeed turn off, when you're in the mood. The great thing about being a songwriter is that you can write songs anywhere. You're doing the shopping, filling your car with gas. You know, especially driving, sitting on the train, you could be walking down the street thinking and working on your song. But I turn the thing over in my mind, over and over again, until, like you just said, I start to believe I'm singing a cover song. And the opposite is true when I get on to a cover. You know, a cover that I like. If I hear a song that people haven't heard millions of times before, if I find some old song where I'm like "boy, that's good," I'll turn it over and over again in my mind, and I'll work on it and work on it, until I start to believe that I wrote it. And you wind up at the same place. It feels like an old coat that you just put on and it feels totally natural, but isn't quite yours.

I don't really like the stuff that I do that sounds like me — you know, what I perceive sounds like me. I always inwardly groan, "Oh god, not that old thing again. Here it comes."

**Are you still mystified when you stumble upon a simple song?**

Oh yeah. It's the greatest thing to do a simple song. One with three chords. One chord is even better — and it is possible to do! It's perfectly possible to do it with one chord. Well, it's possible but very, very difficult. It's got to sound natural, it's got to sound cool and surprising. So the intervals, where the rhythm of the song is, the intervals have to be surprising. Like in blues. The way old blues singers used to phrase their stuff is just brilliant, mysterious and difficult to catch. Because normally, your ear is attracted to a certain symmetry in a song, and a one-note symmetry is pushed out, pushed to an unusual place. But it's still symmetrical and a wonderful feeling. It's ever so difficult to achieve it naturally.

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# Rad Dad Chad

Chad Daniels. PHOTO PROVIDED

Chad Daniels gave Metro the scoop on his new tour and comedy special.

MOLLY GIVEN
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Chad Daniels, otherwise known as Dad Chaniels, certainly lives up to his nickname. The Minnesota native broke into the comedy world years ago and has had quite the illustrious career as a comedian, performer and father. Daniels' latest special, "Dad Chaniels," is set to release on Amazon Prime on April 12 (pre-sales have already begun), and if you need a guy who says what's on his mind, is truly a family man and is just all-around hilarious with his outlooks on life — we have found your new favorite comedian. Daniels sat down with Metro to talk about his stand-up, his tour and how being a simple dad from Minnesota has made his life more interesting than you can imagine.

**Your website states you are "the most listened-to comic people have never heard of." For someone who has never heard of you, how would you describe your comedy?**
It's just basically based on my life. Of course, a lot of comedians draw from what happens in their daily life. I just happen to have a different past than everyone else. I live in northern Minnesota. I've never lived in New York or Los Angeles. I have two kids and I wanted them to live close to family instead of trying to make it big. So it's a lot about that, a lot of parenting stuff, which — I know it's been done and Ray Romano is obviously the king and that's why they gave him a show and all that. But it's my unique take on parenting, and now I'm divorced as well so I have the kids at my house with just me, so it's just life.

**How has your comedy changed over time?**
I think as I've gotten older, I'm more willing to listen to other people's critiques. When I was younger I was full of piss and vinegar and if somebody would say anything about my joke I would defend it right away till the death. But I listen a lot more now. I've had people come up to me after shows and they can't tell if I'm left-leaning or right-leaning, which is great, it's right on the line. I try to be as honest to my opinions as possible.

**You're obviously no stranger to performing. You've been on Conan and you've toured in China, plus you already have a special on Amazon. What would you say have been some high points of your career so far?**
I think the high points for me are probably the relationships I've made. I used to drive around in my car 18 hours at a time to get to shows, and because of that, you have to trust the bookers and make good relationships. There's a lot of bookers in this country that I've been to their kids' graduation parties and really tried to solidify those relationships. Also, a real highlight was when my kids were old enough and I could bring them on the road with me. That's been a blast, to show them these amazing cities that the U.S. has to offer.

**Do you feel different energies with different cities?**
I would say so. There's definitely a different cultural vibe. I never change my act for a city that I'm in, but you can definitely feel different areas of the country laugh at different things. Then there are some, like the last time I went to Vancouver, it was tough to do stand-up. Anything you said there was either an eye roll or an audible sigh.

**Overall, what can fans expect from your comedy special on Amazon?**
What I would love to tell people is, if you want to really get the full experience, I would say go back and listen to the old albums first. This hour was written in the two years during my divorce and then after it, so it's just basically about me trying to navigate through society as a new single dad. It's about those two years and having an 18-year-old son at the time and a 14-year-old daughter. Just trying to get through it all.

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SPORTS

Duke Johnson's time in Cleveland is nearing an end. GETTY IMAGES

# Should the Eagles go get Duke Johnson?

The Browns running back has requested a trade.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Running back Duke Johnson looks to be doing everything he possibly can to get away from the Cleveland Browns.

The 25-year-old Miami product has requested a trade from his current team, as first reported by Mary Kay Cabot of Cleveland.com. Johnson did not show up to the Browns' offseason workout program earlier this week.

ESPN's Adam Schefter added that a trade is "likely" on the way.

The Eagles were one of the teams who were rumored to have interest in Johnson last month, but have since traded for Jordan Howard from the Chicago Bears.

Still, Johnson provides an attractive option for an Eagles team that might not have solved its backfield issues yet this offseason.

While Howard carries the promise of being a 1,000-plus-yard rusher, he has regressed over his first three years in the league, especially when Matt Nagy took over.

It's a step up from the Eagles' existing trio of rushers that are still on the roster in Corey Clement, Wendell Smallwood, and possibly Darren Sproles. However, acquiring Johnson would give the Eagles a more rounded, deeper ground game.

Johnson has averaged 4.7 yards per carry over the past three years, though he's never assumed the role of being Cleveland's No. 1 back. Pairing him with Howard, especially in third-down situations, could create a dangerous duo in the NFC East.

He is also a dual threat out of the backfield, averaging 76 receptions in each of the last three years. It would give quarterback Carson Wentz one more passing option and a security blanket out of the backfield.

Johnson's contract is also a manageable one. He's due just $1.8 million in 2019 before $3.6 million and $4.6 million over the following two years.

That's a cheap deal for a player that possesses the kind of proven skillset Johnson has. Especially after general manager Howie Roseman has done an immense job freeing up over $24 million in cap space this offseason.

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| Januvia 100mg | 84 | $264.99 | Xarelto 20mg | 90 | $509.99 |
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# Sixers TV broadcast will have a 'betting flavor' tonight

The NBC Sports Philadelphia broadcast will cover wagering aspects throughout the game.

**MATT BURKE**

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

GETTY IMAGES

In-game wagering was brought to the forefront of American sports fans' minds last fall when Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson squared off in a one-on-one event that featured a prop bet on just about every swing of the club.

That is what it's building toward in other sports in the U.S. as well as you will soon be able to bet on whether or not someone makes a clutch free throw or if a kicker is about to Cody Parkey one off the uprights.

MetroBet columnist Anthony Gargano will join 97.5 The Fanatic host Marc Farzetta and sports betting expert Brad Feinberg on the NBC Sports Philadelphia Plus broadcast of the Sixers and Hawks game tonight (7:30 p.m.), and the trio will discuss in-game betting as well as many other aspects of wagering on sports.

It promises to be beneficial for novice bettors as well as experienced bettors who might not be up-to-date with some of the new features that these new sportsbooks are offering.

"We are thrilled to be the first to provide this betting-focused programming and analysis with a format that is relevant to everyone, from those just learning to advanced bettors," NBC Sports Philadelphia President Brian Monihan said in a press release. "This live coverage continues our commitment to engage our fans in new and exciting ways."

The broadcast will not only feature input from Gargano, Farzetta and Feinberg but will also have special on-screen graphics that show up-to-date betting data and information.

This could very well be a glimpse into the future for American sports broadcasts, with sports betting information being shown on screens just as much as traditional stats.

The Ringer's Bryan Curtis discussed the phenomenon last year after sports betting was legalized on a state-by-state basis.

"Earlier this year I spent some time in Australia where sports gambling is already legal," Curtis wrote. "It wasn't unusual for a Jim Nantz-like announcer to promote a sportsbook on the side. When you start seeing your favorite American play-by-play announcers and writers flacking for casinos, you'll know the stigma will be gone forever. Move over, Blue Apron. Hello, WinStar."

**TWEET OF THE DAY**

**Albert Breer**
@Albert Breer

**Perception inside the AAF is that Hurricanes owner Tom Dundon bought a majority stake in the league simply for the gambling app being developed.**

**Source: "Dundon got the technology he wanted and he's now minus one rather large headache."**

# Sports betting 101: Total runs scored in baseball

Every MLB game has an Over/Under line. This line (in number format) is the sportsbook's projection for how many runs both teams will score, combined.

For example, imagine the Phillies play the Mets with an Over/Under line for the game set at 9 by your favorite sportsbook. The outcome of our mythical game is 5-3, Phils beat the Mets (but in Over/Under betting, who wins doesn't matter).

The bettors who picked Under would win because the total runs scored (8) was less than the sportsbook Over/Under line (9).

In the 2018 season, the Phillies went Over the total runs scored betting line 74 times; Under the betting line 81 times; and tied (or pushed) the betting line seven times. Mathematically their Over/Under results were as follows: 74-81-7, 47.7 percent Over vs. 52.3 percent Under.

For the 81 road games in 2018, the Phils scored even less than the sportsbooks projected. The Under hit 42 times while going Over the run total occurred just 35 times. The Phillies' away game mathematical Over/Under line for 2018 looks like this: 35-42-4, 45.5 percent Over vs. 54.5 percent Under.

As the MLB season gets underway, start to look at MLB total Over/Under lines. And before you consider "jumping in" (placing a bet), be aware that sportsbooks will use half runs (.5) to "attract" Over bettors, also known as "hanging the hook."

These sportsbooks know that the recreational sports bettor tends to side with the Over. Therefore, by reducing an Over/Under line a half-point makes the Over bet even sexier (imagine, in our above example, the Over/Under Phillies/Mets line was 8.5 instead of 9).

But betting the Under is not for everyone. Most would find it tough going to the ballpark and rooting for a 1-0 sleeper, without a care in the world if your team wins.

**METROBET STAFF**

# Betting trends

## Preview: Sixers vs. Hawks

**WEDNESDAY, 7:30 P.M.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 49-28 | Overall record | 28-49 |
| 36-41 | ATS record | 39-38 |
| 39-38 | O/U record | 44-33 |
| 19-19 | Away/home | 16-23 |
| 7-3 | L10 | 6-4 |
| Over is 7-2 in L9 | Betting trend | 4-1 ATS in L5 |
| -5.5 | Line | +5.5 |

O/U: Over/Under. L10 = Last 10 games. ATS = Against the spread.

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In partnership with VSiN

# Breaking down the NBA's regular-season stretch run

Old-school thinking may need to be updated.

VSiN

With one week to go in the NBA regular season, the Brooklyn Nets are in a frantic game of musical chairs with Detroit, Miami and Orlando for spots in the lower half of the Eastern Conference playoff brackets. Four teams, three chairs.

Whoever qualifies will enter the playoffs as big-series underdogs in the first round against either Philadelphia, Milwaukee or Toronto. Only seeds No. 6-8 are available, and those powers will be seeded on the 1-3 rungs. The odd team out when the melody stops will watch the postseason on TV with the rest of us. (Boston and Indiana will be the No. 4 and 5 seeds, home court still to be determined.)

Old-school bettors will often warn newbies that betting on teams who "need to win" can be a money pit. Point spreads are stacked against them, so there's no line value. Teams are just as prone to succumb to the pressure as they are to rise to the occasion. And, how good could these "bubble" type teams really be if they're still fighting just to get into an expanded playoff structure so late in the process?

At the moment, the four "musical chairs" contestants are certainly playing like they want to extend their seasons. Here are their current runs against the point spread heading into Wednesday night action:

**Detroit: 18-7-1 its last 26**
**Miami: 12-5-1 its last 18**
**Orlando: 6-3 its last nine**
**Brooklyn: 5-2 its last seven**

A relative cash crescendo as we approach the final note. And, a few games matched those teams against each other … meaning the win percentage vs. outsiders is even better. There's something to be said for bringing intensity late in a season against opponents that are either pacing themselves or tanking. Old-school thinking may need to be updated.

That said, our four teams of interest flunked litmus tests this past Monday against playoff-bound opponents who decided to show up! They went 0-4 straight-up and 1-3 ATS as Detroit (+5.5) lost at Indiana 111-102, Orlando (+6.5) lost at Toronto 121-109, Brooklyn (-1) lost to Milwaukee 131-121, and Miami (+6.5) covered in a 110-105 loss at Boston.

Musical chairs is one thing. Nobody destined to be seeded Nos. 6-8 looks ready for dodgeball against the big kids that throw hard.

GETTY IMAGES

A lot of those types of challenges are still ahead for the "bubble" brigade in these remaining schedules.

**Brooklyn:** vs. Toronto, at Milwaukee, at Indiana, vs. Miami.

**Detroit:** vs. Indiana, at Oklahoma City, vs. Charlotte, vs. Memphis, at New York.
**Orlando:** vs. New York, vs. Atlanta, at Boston, at Charlotte.
**Miami:** vs. Boston, at Minnesota, at Toronto, vs. Philadelphia, at Brooklyn.

Those big kids that throw hard are still prohibitive favorites to dominate the Eastern playoffs. Here are William Hill's odds to win the Eastern Conference: Milwaukee 13/10 (+130), Toronto 13/5 (+260), Philadelphia 3/1, Boston 3/1, Indiana 100/1, Detroit 150/1, Miami 150/1, Brooklyn 200/1 and Orlando 300/1.

Smart bettors may still be able to pick spots with "must-win" teams. Just a few left before the music stops. JEFF FOGLE

## Sports on TV Highlights

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1:00 pm | **MLB Baseball**<br>Philadelphia Phillies vs. Washington Nationals | NBC Sports Philadelphia |
| 7:30 pm | **NBA Basketball**<br>Philadelphia 76ers vs. Atlanta Hawks | NBC Sports Philadelphia |
| 7:00 pm | **MLB Baseball**<br>Chicago Cubs vs. Atlanta Braves | ESPN |
| 7:30 pm | **NBA Basketball**<br>Boston Celtics vs. Miami Heat | NBA TV |
| 8:00 pm | **NHL Hockey**<br>St. Louis Blues vs. Chicago Blackhawks | NBC Sports Network |
| 10:30 pm | **NBA Basketball**<br>Houston Rockets vs. LA Clippers | NBA TV |

## Phillies and Sixers betting previews

**Philadelphia Phillies vs. Washington Nationals**
The Phillies will send their ace, Aaron Nola (1-0, 1.50 ERA), to the hill for the finale of a two-game series with the Nationals on Wednesday at Nationals Park. The Nats will counter with Anibal Sanchez, who makes his first start of 2019.

Nola was dominant at times in 2018 but was somewhat vulnerable in day games. In 14 afternoon starts, Nola went 5-4 with a 2.96 ERA, which starkly contrasts his overall performance (17-6, 2.35 ERA). Hitters averaged .232 against him in day games, compared to .197 overall. However, Nola went 3-1 with a 2.14 ERA in five outings against Washington last year. Nationals right fielder Adam Eaton has struggled against Nola in particular, going just 1-for-17 lifetime.

Interestingly, Bryce Harper has four hits in 14 at-bats against Sanchez, including two triples and a home run. ***The play: Phillies vs. Nationals Under***

**Philadelphia 76ers at Atlanta Hawks**
Over bettors should be salivating about Wednesday night's matchup between the Philadelphia 76ers and the Atlanta Hawks at State Farm Arena.

The Over has cashed in two straight meetings between these clubs and is 5-1 in their last six faceoffs in Atlanta, per Covers.com. The Hawks have exceeded the total in four of their last five contests, playing to an average combined score of 244.8 points. Point guard Trae Young (18.9 points per game) only recently had an eight-game streak of scoring 20 or more points snapped.

Small forward Tobias Harris has gone for 25 points in each of his last two efforts, while J.J. Redick is shooting 48.7 percent over his last three contests. They should have a field day against Atlanta's league-worst defense (118.8 points allowed per game).
***The play: Sixers vs. Hawks Over***
ROBERT CRISCOLA

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# Should Sixers fans be concerned after Mavs loss?

Philly was beaten handily by the lowly Mavs on Monday night.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

JJ Redick and the 76ers lost by 20 to the Mavericks on Monday night. GETTY IMAGES

If Monday night taught us anything, it's that the Philadelphia 76ers can't afford any losses or injuries to their starting five in the playoffs.

Well, maybe it really just taught us to have a selective memory.

With both Joel Embiid and Jimmy Butler sitting out, the Sixers lost by 20 to a Luka Doncic-less Dallas Mavericks team that had won just four of its previous 21 games.

The 76ers opted to sit Embiid to manage his playing time ahead of the playoffs while Butler dealt with back tightness.

What resulted was an ugly effort despite the remaining three starters in Tobias Harris, JJ Redick, and Ben Simmons, putting up strong efforts.

The trio accounted for 68 of the 76ers' 102 points, which is over 66-percent of the team's scoring output on the night.

If you take out TJ McConnell's 15 points, the remaining nine players that appeared in Monday night's loss accounted for a combined 19 points.

That's an unacceptable amount of support for the normal starting five come playoff time, especially when they will be playing the cream of the crop of the league.

However, this was the 77th game of the regular season with the Sixers basically locked into the No. 3 spot of the Eastern Conference. With the team basically playing out the schedule before kicking it into high gear, a surprisingly poor effort is likely nothing more than a fluke at this point in the season.

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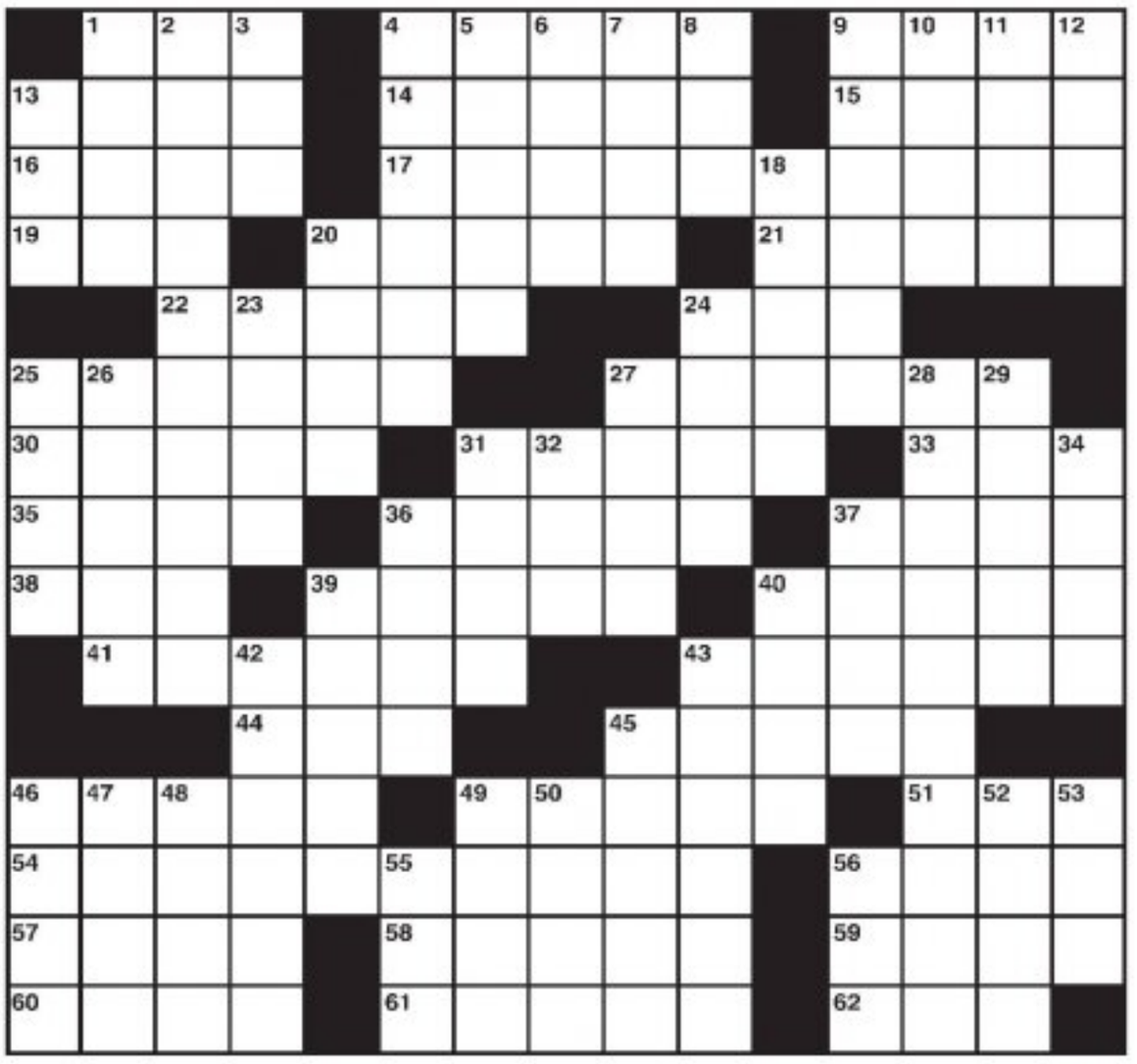

**ACROSS**
1 Trigger's rider
4 Honey-yellow color
9 Resound
13 On the __; increasing
14 Word in two U.S. state names
15 Exhibit
16 __ up; misbehaves
17 Mixed dish
19 Conjunction
20 Train bed
21 Coughs
22 Lacking companions
24 Abyss
25 Brief period of time
27 Most resentful
30 Straighten
31 Baskin-Robbins utensil
33 Earl Grey product
35 Fixed stare
36 Drag one's feet
37 Bosc or Bartlett
38 Dined
39 Climb
40 Charisma
41 Newspaper bigwig
43 Not at all sturdy
44 One not to be trusted
45 Pliers & saws
46 Knight's protection
49 __-degree burn; serious injury
51 Shack
54 Going into again
56 Abundant
57 Sugar __; Hawaiian crop
58 Nickname for Margaret
59 Come __; find
60 Tater
61 Rate of progress
62 Suffix for host or count

**DOWN**
1 Puerto __
2 Excluded from a group
3 Simple reply
4 Go higher
5 Actor Dudley
6 Tap a baseball
7 Carve in glass
8 Sorority letter
9 Real __; Century 21's business
10 Stylish
11 "Peter Pan" captain
12 Possesses
13 Hightailed it
18 Bird's sound
20 Western German city
23 Theater box
24 Combine, as funds
25 Long story
26 Thrill
27 Food fish
28 Titanic & others
29 In __; weeping
31 Asterisk
32 Coolidge, to friends
34 Military force
36 Inverness resident
37 Donahue or Hartman
39 Get under way
40 Clumsy fellow
42 Pressed
43 Did a blacksmith's job
45 Slight coloring
46 Circle portions
47 "As ye sow, so shall ye __"
48 Waiter's offering
49 Ensnare
50 Take on employees
52 Eerie saucers, for short
53 Reasonable bedtime
55 Dorothy's aunt & others
56 Actress McClanahan

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | F | T | X | U | T | N | U | T | S |
| Z | E | L | E | P | H | A | N | T | C |
| E | R | I | N | G | L | I | N | G | I |
| P | A | O | T | O | S | Q | H | O | T |
| A | C | N | A | C | I | R | E | M | A |
| R | E | I | I | M | U | N | R | A | B |
| T | H | C | R | M | U | S | I | C | O |
| N | W | O | L | C | A | Y | S | B | R |
| A | N | D | A | P | U | L | Q | C | C |
| J | L | I | G | H | T | S | S | H | A |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 8 | | | | 9 | | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| | | | | 7 | 2 | | | 8 |
| | 8 | | | | 3 | 5 | | |
| 3 | | | 1 | | 8 | | | 7 |
| | | 2 | 9 | | | | 6 | |
| 4 | | | 2 | 3 | | | | |
| 2 | 6 | 9 | | 1 | | | | 5 |
| 1 | | 3 | | | | | | 2 |

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| L | E | A | F | | E | R | O | D | E | | A | N | O | X |
| D | E | S | K | | P | R | O | J | E | C | T | I | L | E |
| S | P | Y | | H | E | E | L | | | H | I | V | E | S |
| | | S | O | U | N | D | | | D | E | O | | | |
| H | A | T | R | E | D | | | S | E | A | S | O | N | |
| A | C | R | E | S | | G | R | E | A | T | | V | A | L |
| S | H | E | S | | B | R | I | E | F | | B | E | V | Y |
| H | E | E | | F | E | E | D | S | | B | A | R | E | R |
| | S | T | A | R | R | Y | | | C | I | R | C | L | E |
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